

CHAPTER XVI. At 10 o'clock that morning, shortly after a smiling interview with the ladies of Fort Sibley, in which, with infinite spirit and the most perfect self control, Miss Beaubien had informed them that she had promised to lead with Mr. Jerrold, and since he was in duress she would lead with no one, and sent them off wondering and greatly excited. there came running up to the carriage a telegraph messenger boy, who handed her a dispatch.

"I was going up to the avenue, mum," he explained, "but I seen you

Nina's face paled as she tore it open and read the curt lines:

"Come to me here. Your help needed

instantly.'

She sprang from the carriage. "Tell mother I have gone over to see some fort friends-not to wait," she called to the conchman, well knowing he would understand that she meant the ladies with whom she had been so recently talking. Like a frightened deer she sped around the corner, bailed the driver of a cab, lounging with his fellows along the walk, ordered him to drive with all speed to Summit avenue, and with beating heart decided on her plan. Her glorious eyes were flashing; the native courage and flerce determination of her race were working in her woman's heart. She well knew that imminent danger threatened him. She had dared everything for love of his mere presence, his sweet caress. What would she not dare to save him if save she could? He had not been true to her. She knew, and knew well, that, whether sought or not, Alice Renwick had been winning him from her, that he was wavering, that he had been cold and negligent, but with all her soul and strength she loved him and believed him grand and brave and fine as he was beautiful. Now-now was her opportunity. He needed her. His commission, his honor, depended on her. He had intimated as much the night before-had told her of the accusations and suspicions that attached to him-but made no mention of the photograph.

He had said that, though nothing could drag from him a word that would compromise her, she might be called upon to stand 'twixt him and ruin, and now perhaps the hour had come. She could free, exonerate, glorify him, and in doing so claim him for her own. Who, after this, could stand 'twixt her and him? He loved her, though he had been cold, and she? Had he bidden her bow her dusky head to earth and kiss the print of his heel she would have obeyed could she but feel sure that her reward would be a simple touch of his hand, an assurance that no other woman could find a moment's place in his love. Verily, he had been doing desperate wooing in the long winter, for the very depths of her nature were all athrob with love for him. And now he could no longer plead that poverty withheld his offer of his hand. She would soon be mistress of her own little fortune, and at her mother's death of an independence. Go to him she would, and on wings of the wind, and go she did. The cab released her at the gate to her home and went back with a double fare that set the driver to thinking. She sped through the house and out the rear doors, much to the amaze of cook and others who were in consultation in the kitchen. She flew down a winding flight of stairs to the level below, and her fairy feet went tripping over the pavement of a plebeian street. A quick turn, and she was at a little second rate stable, whose proprietor knew her and started from his chair. "What's wrong today, Miss Nina?" "I want the roan mare and light buggy again-quick as you can. Your own price at the old terms, Mr. Graves-si-

He nodded, called to a subordinate and in five minutes handed her into the frail vehicle. An impatient chirrup and fiap of the rains, and the roan shot forth into the dusty road, leaving old Graves shaking his head at the door.

"I've known her ever since she was weamed," he muttered, "and she's a wild bird, if ever there was one, but she's never been the like o' this till last

And the roan mare was covered with foam and sweat when Nina Beaubien drove into the bustling fort, barely an hour after her receipt of Jerrold's telegram. A few officers were gathered in front of headquarters, and there were curious looks from face to face as she her face to face as she sprang lightly to the ground. The young fellow reddened to his eyes and would have recoiled, but she was mistress of the situation. She well knew she had but to command, and he would obey, or, at the most, if she could no longer command she had only to implore, and he would be powerless to withstand her entreaty. I am glad you are here, Mr. Rollins. You can help me-sergeant, will

you kindly hitch my horse at that post? -now," she added in low, hurried tone, "come with me to Mr. Jerrold's." Rollins was too stupefied to answer. Silently he placed himself by her side, and together they passed the group at the office. Miss Beaubien nodded with something of her old archness and coquetry to the cap raising party, but never hesitated. Together they passed along the narrow board walk, followed

sudden sensation in the group. Mr. Jerreld appeared at the door of his quar ters; Bollins halted some 50 feet away, raised his cap and left her, and all alone, with the eyes of Fort Sibley upon her, Nina Beaubien stepped bravely forward

They saw him greet her at the door. Some of them turned away, unwilling to look and yet unwilling to go and not understand this new phase of the mystery. Rollins, looking neither to right with a set, savage look on his young face, and then, as one or two still gazed, proceeding, others, too, turned back furtively over at Jerrold's door.

out a chair, but she would not sit. They saw her looking up into his face ly, into his clouded and anxious face. was somebody's duty to step forward, if anything, a tendency to sidle toward sidewalk unimpeded. But she never emphasis upon every word accosted

"Captain Wilton, Major Sloat, I wish to see Captain Chester at once. Is he

"Certainly, Miss Beaubien. Shall I call him, or will you walk in?" And both men were at her side in a moment. "Thanks. I will go right in-if you will kindly show me to him."

Another moment, and Armitage and Chester, deep in the midst of their duties and surrounded by clerks and orderlies and assailed by half a dozen questions in one and the same instant, looked up astonished as Wilton stepped in and announced Miss Beaubien, desiring to see Captain Chester on immediate business. There was no time for conference. There she stood in the doorway, and all tongues were hushed on the instant. Chester rose and stepped forward, with anxious courtesy. She did not choose to see the extended hand.

"It is you, alone, I wish to see, captain. Is it impossible here?"

"I fear it is, Miss Beaubien, but we can walk out in the open air. I feel that I know what it is you wish to say to me," he added in a low tone, took his cap from the peg on which it hung and led the way. Again she passed through the curious but respectful group, and Jerrold, watching furtively from his window, saw them come forth. The captain turned to her as soon as they were out of earshot:

"I have no daughter of my own, my dear young lady, but if I had I could not more thoroughly feel for you than

I do. How can I help you?" The reply was unexpectedly spirited. He had thought to encourage and sustain her, be sympathetic and paternal; but, as he afterward ruefully admitted, he 'never did seem to get the hang of a woman's temperament." Apparently sympathy was not the thing she needed.

"It is late in the day to ask such a question, Captain Chester. You have done great wrong and injustice. The question is now, Will you undo it?" He was too surprised to speak for a

moment. When his tongue was unloosed, he said:

"I shall be glad to be convinced I was wrong." "I know little of army justice or army laws, Captain Chester, but when a girl is compelled to take this step to rescue a friend there is something brutal about them, or the men who enforce them. Mr. Jerrold tells me that he is arrested. I knew that last night, but not until this morning did he consent to let me know that he would be court martialed nuless he could prove where was recognized. Mr. Rollins was on the walk, giving some instructions to a sergeant of his company, and never saw night. He is too noble and good to defend himself when by doing so he might hind him, and turning suddenly he met harm me. But I am here to free him from the cruel suspicion you have formed." She had quickened her step, and in her impulsiveness and agitation they were almost at the end of the walk. He hesitated, as though reluctant to go along under the piazza, but she was imperious, and he yielded. "No, come!" she said. "I mean that you shall hear the whole truth, and that at once. I do not expect you to understand or condone my conduct, but you must acquit him. We are engaged, and-I love him. He has enemies here, as I see all too plainly, and they have prejudiced mother against him, and she has forbidden my seeing him. I came out to the fort without her knowledge one day, and it angered her. From that time she would not let me see him alone. She watched every movement and came with me wherever I drove. She gave orders that I should never have any of our horses by carious eyes, and as they reached the to drive or ride alone-I, whom father angle and stepped beneath the shelter had indulged to the utmost and who had of the piazza in front of the long, low, ridden and driven at will from my habygreen blinded bachelors' row there was hood. She came out to the fort with me that evening for parade and never even agreed to let me go out to see some neighbors until she learned he was to escort Miss Renwick. She had ordered me to be ready to go with her to Chequamagon the next day, and I would

been a misunderstanding. I got the Suttons to drive me out while mother supposed me at the Laurents', and Mr. Jerrold promised to meet me east of the bridge and drive in town with us, and I was to send him back in Graves' "He had been refused permission to

would be sure to recognize him, but as it was our last chance of meeting he risked the discovery of his absence, nev-er dreaming of such a thing as his private rooms being inspected. He had a little skiff down in the willows that he had used before, and by leaving the party at midnight he could get home, change his dress, run down the bank and row down stream to the point, there leave his skiff and climb up to the road. He met us there at 1 o'clock, and the Suttons would never betray either of us, though they did not know we were ennor left, repassed them and walked off gaged. We sat in their parlor a quarter of an hour after we got to town, and then 'twas time to go, and there was fascinated by this strange and daring only a little 10 minutes' walk down to the stable. I had seen him such a very and, half ashamed of themselves for short time, and I had so much to tell such a yielding to curiosity, glanced him." Chester could have burst into rapturous applause had she been an ac-There they stood-he restrained by tress. Her cheeks were aflame, her his arrest, unable to come forth; she, eyes full of fire and spirit, her bosom restrained more by his barring form heaving, her little foot tapping the than by any consideration of maidenly ground, as she stood there leaning on reserve, for, had he bidden, she would the colonel's fence and looking straight have gone within. She had fully made up in the perturbed veteran's face. She up her mind that wherever he was, even was magnificent, he said to himself. were it behind the sentinels and bars of and in her bravery, self sacrifice and inthe guardhouse, she would demand that dignation she was. "It was then after she be taken to his side. He had handed 2, and I could just as well go with him -somebody had to bring the buggy back -and Graves himself hitched in his as he talked and noted the eager gesti- roan mare for me, and I drove out, culation, so characteristic of his creole | picked up Mr. Jerrold at the corner, blood, that seemed to accompany his and we came out here again through rapid words. They saw her bending to- the darkness together. Even when we ward him, looking eagerly up in his got to the point I did not let him go at eyes and occasionally casting indignant once. It was over an hour's drive. It glances over toward the group at the was fully half past 3 before we parted. office, as though she would annihilate He sprang down the path to reach the with her wrath the persecutors of her riverside, and before he was fairly in hero. Then they saw her stretch forth his boat and pulling up against the both her hands, with a quick impulsive stream I heard, far over here somemovement, and grasp his one instant, where, those two faint shots. That was looking so faithfully, steadfastly, loyal- the shooting he spoke of in his letter to me, not to her, and what business Colo-Then she turned, and with quick, eager | nel Maynard had to read and exhibit steps came tripping toward them. They | to his officers a letter never intended for stood irresolute. Every man felt that it him I cannot understand. Mr. Jerrold says it was not what he wanted it to be meet her and be her escort through the at all, as he wrote hastily, so he wrote party, but no one advanced. There was, another and sent that to me by Merrick that morning after his absence was disthe office door, as though to leave the covered. It probably biew out of the window, as these other things did this sought to pass them by. With flashing eyes and crimson cheeks, she bore And she pointed to the two or three straight upon them, and with indignant bills and scraps that had evidently only recently fluttered in among the now

neglected roses.
"Then when he was aroused at reveille and you threatened him with punishment and held over his head the startling accusation that you knew of our meeting and our secret he was naturally infinitely distressed and could only write to warn me, and he managed to get in and say goodby to me at the station. As for me, I was back home by 5 o'clock, let myself noiselessly up to



Oh, what have I done? what have I

Enttons and old Graves, neither of whom would betray me. I had no fear of the long dark road. I had ridden and driven as a child all over these bluffs and prairies before there was any town worth mentioning and in days when my father and I found only friends-not enemics—here at Sibley.

"Miss Beaubien, let me protest against your accusation. It is not for me to reprove your grave imprudence or recklessness, nor have I the right to disapprove your choice of Mr. Jerrold. Let me say at once that you have none but friends here, and if it over should be known to what lengths you went to save him it will only make him more envied and you more genuinely admired. I question your wisdom; but, upon my soul, I admire your bravery and spirit. You have cleared him of a terrible

A most disdainful and impatient shrug of her shapely shoulders was Miss Beaubien's only answer to that allusion. The possibility of Mr. Jerrold's being suspected of another entanglement was

something she would not tolerate. "I know nothing of other people's affairs. I simply speak of my own. Let us end this as quickly na possible, captain. Now about Saturday night. Mother had consented to our coming back for the german-she enjoys seeing me lend, it seems-and she decided to pay a short visit to relations at St. Croix, staying there Saturday night and over Sunday. This would give us a chance to meet again, as he could spend the evening in St. Croix and return by late train, and I wrote and asked him. He came. We had a long talk in the summer house in the garden, for mother never dreamed of his being there, and unluckily he just missed the night train and did not get back until inspection, It was impossible for him to have been at Sablon, and he can furnish other proof, but would do nothing until he

"Miss Beaubien, you have cleared him. I only wish that you could clear

-every one." "I am in nowise concerned in that other matter to which you have alludnot go until I had seen him. There had ed: neither is Mr. Jerrold. May I say

to him at once that this ends his perse-

The captain smiled. "You certainly deserve to be the bearer of good tidings. I wish he may appreciate it."

Another moment, and she had left him and sped back to Jerrold's doorway. He was there to meet her, and leave the post, he said, and could not Chester looked with grim and uncertain emotion at the radiance in her face. He cross the bridge, where the sentries had to get back to the office and to pass them; so, as civilly as he could, considering the weight of wrath and contempt he felt for the man, he stopped and

'Your fair advocate has been all powerful, Mr. Jerrold. I congratulate you, and your arrest is at an end. Captain Armitage will require no duty of you until we are aboard, but we've only half an hour. The train is coming sharp

"Train! What train? Where are you going?" she asked, a wild anxiety in her eyes, a sudden pallor on her face. "We are ordered post haste to Colo-

have been left behind." "But for me! left behind!" she cried. 'Oh, Howard, Howard! have I onlyonly won you to send you into danger? Oh, my darling! Oh, God, don't—don't go! They will kill you! It will kill me!

Oh, what have I done? what have I

"Nina, hush! My honor is with the regiment. I must go, child. We'll be back in a few weeks. Indeed I fear UNE'S equipment as a 'twill all be over before we get there, Nina, don't look so! Don't act so! Think

where you are!" But she had borne too much, and the blow came all too soon-too heavy. She voluble and rabid charge upon her daughter. All too late! It was useless now. Her darling's heart was weaned objectionable young soldier so soon to go forth to battle. Reproaches, tears, wrath, were all in order, but were abandoned at sight of poor Nina's agony of grief. Noon came, and the train, and with buoyant tread the gallant command marched down the winding road Jerrold, shame stricken, humbled at the contemplation of his own unworthiness. slowly unclasped her arms from about white and quivering lips, took one brief look in the great dark, haunting, despairing eyes and carried her wail of anguish ringing in his ears as he sprang aboard and was whirled away.

But there were women who deemed themselves worse off than Nina Beaubien-the wives and daughters and sweethearts whom she met that morn in town, for when they got back to Sibley the regiment was miles away. For them there was not even a kiss from the lips of those they loved. Time and train waited for no woman. There were comrades battling for life in the Colorado Rockies, and aid could not come too

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Deceiving an Expert. Thomas Carvalho, the treasury expert, who is said to be the best judge of money in the world was sent to Rirmingham Ala., to testify as an expert in a counterfeit case. In explaining to the jury the secret marks which the genuine silver dollar bears, he said: "The designer of the standard silver dollar, Mr. Morgan, stamped the initial of his name in two places on the coin. All genuine standard silver dollars bear one minute letter 'M' stamped on the neck of the Goddess of Liberty, just at the point where the longest lock of hair crosses the neck line, and another on the reverse side of the coin, on the left half of the loop of ribbon tied about the wreath.'

Drawing from his pocket a handful of coins he left the witness stand and walked over to the jury box. "If you will look at these dollars very carefully," said he, "you will observe the marks to which I have alluded." He then distributed the dollars among the jurors and asked them to examine the coins. After studying awhile, pert Carvalho smilingly volunteered to point out the secret initials to the three gentlemen whose eyes were not acute enough to detect them. Taking the three coins in his band he

glanced at them casually. A puzzled look overspread his features; he closely scru-tinized the dollars, walking over to the window to get the benefit of a clearer light. tlemen, these coins well illustrate the point I was attempting to impress upon you. They are counterfeits." Just before entering the court room Mr. Carvalho stepped into a grocery and had a twenty dollar bill changed in order to get enough dollars to pass among the jurors. Three of these coins were bogus.-Chicago Mail.

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Mother-V. hat? Been in swimming: And this time of the year? Mercy! When I went out today, I wore my winter coat. Little Johnny (with teeth chattering)-Yes'm, it was so-so-cold we ha-had to jum-jump into the wa-water to ke-keep warm.-Good News.

W. Cameron in Ferum.

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GOOD

rado, Nina, to rescue what is left of Thornton's men. But for you I should **BOOKS**

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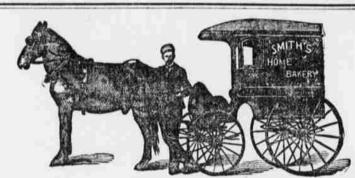
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